

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 20

Bill No. 101-21

Mr. Julian E. Jones, Jr., Chairman
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, November 15, 2021

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

County Code – The Commission on Veteran’s Affairs

FOR the purpose of amending the Commission on Veterans’ Affairs to alter the number of commissioners, the organizations which may be included, and the duties and responsibilities of the Commission; and generally relating to the Commission on Veterans’ Affairs.

BY repealing and re-enacting without amendments

Sections 3-3-2003 and 3-3-2004
Article 3 – Administration
Title 3 – Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations
Subtitle 20 – Commission on Veteran’s Affairs
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

BY repealing and re-enacting with amendments

Sections 3-3-2001, 3-3-2002, and 3-3-2005

Article 3 – Administration

Title 3 – Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations

Subtitle 20 – Commission on Veteran’s Affairs

Baltimore County Code, 2015

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

ARTICLE 3 – ADMINISTRATION

Title 3 – Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations

Subtitle 20 – Commission on Veteran’s Affairs

§ 3-3-2001. Established; Definition.

(a) There is a Baltimore County Commission on Veterans’ Affairs.

(b) As used in this subtitle, “veteran” means an individual who served on active duty in
the armed forces of the United States, OR WAS ACTIVATED FOR DUTY other than for
training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

§ 3-3-2002. Membership; Appointment; Term of Office; STAFFING.

(a) (1) The Commission on Veterans’ Affairs consists of [nine] 12 members, all of
whom must be residents of the county.

(2) The members shall be appointed as follows:

1 (i) Each member of the County Council shall appoint one veteran to the
2 Commission who must be a resident of the Councilmember's district and who is active in at least
3 one of the following organizations:

- 4 1. The Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- 5 2. The American Legion;
- 6 3. Disabled American Veterans;
- 7 4. Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- 8 5. Korean War Veterans Association;
- 9 6. Amvets;
- 10 7. American ex-prisoners of war;
- 11 8. Catholic War Veterans;
- 12 9. Jewish War Veterans;
- 13 10. Military Officers Association; [or]
- 14 11. Vietnam Veterans of America; [and]
- 15 12. WOMEN VETERANS OF AMERICA; OR
- 16 13. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK VETERANS;

17 AND

18 (ii) The County Executive shall appoint [two] FIVE members to the
19 Commission who need not be veterans as follows:

- 20 1. [One] THREE at-large [representative] REPRESENTATIVES
21 of the residents of the county; and
- 22 2. [One representative recommended by the Superintendent of
23 Schools and employed by the Department of Education] TWO REPRESENTATIVES

1 EMPLOYED BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, TOWSON
2 UNIVERSITY, OR UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY.

3 (III) THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF
4 BALTIMORE COUNTY GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE ONE REPRESENTATIVE
5 WHO SHALL SERVE AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

- 6 1. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS;
- 7 2. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES;
- 8 3. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
9 DEVELOPMENT;
- 10 4. FIRE DEPARTMENT;
- 11 5. OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION; AND
- 12 6. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

13 (b) (1) The term of a member is 3 years and begins on [July] JANUARY 1.

14 (2) [The terms of the initial members of the Commission are staggered so that not
15 more than 3 members' terms shall expire in any one year. Initially, 3 members shall serve for a
16 term of 1 year; 3 members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and 3 members shall serve for a term
17 of 3 years] A MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

18 (C) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MAY PROVIDE FOR PERSONNEL TO CARRY
19 OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE AS THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE CONSIDERS
20 APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY.

21
22 § 3-3-2003. Officers.

23 (a) The Commission members shall elect a Chairperson who is a veteran.

1 (b) A Chairperson shall serve in that capacity for a 1-year term.

2
3 § 3-3-2004. Meetings; Quorum; Rules; Compensation.

4 (a) The Commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson as frequently as is required
5 to perform its duties.

6 (b) A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the
7 transaction of business, and an affirmative vote by the majority of those present at any meeting
8 shall be sufficient for any action.

9 (c) The Commission may adopt a set of rules to govern its own meetings and procedures.

10 (d) A member is not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred as
11 a member of the Commission.

12
13 § 3-3-2005. Duties and Responsibilities.

14 (A) The Commission has the following duties and responsibilities:

15 (1) To establish a forum exclusively relating to the issues of VETERANS AND
16 THEIR FAMILIES RESIDING IN Baltimore County residents [who served in the armed
17 services of America];

18 (2) To maintain communication between government agencies, businesses,
19 educational institutions, and veterans in the county, with the intent that veterans' issues will be
20 addressed in the most effective and efficient manner; and

21 (3) To provide assistance, guidance, and information to government agencies,
22 businesses, [and] educational institutions AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY to ensure

adequate consideration of veterans[,] AND their history of service[, and their message of Americanism] in education, employment, training and public programs.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) RESEARCH AND IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES THAT WILL ASSIST IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES;

(2) ASSIST IN ORGANIZING PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND COMMEMORATION EVENTS TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY'S VETERAN COMMUNITY;

(3) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN THE COUNTY AND STATE RELATED TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND

(4) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect immediately upon passage.